

A RESOLUTION to redesignate the Legislative Plaza complex as the "War Memorial Plaza".

WHEREAS, on September 21, 1925, the War Memorial Building was officially dedicated "to make adequate recognition of the heroic valor of the sons of the State who have served the United States Government in the European War (World War I) just closed, bringing great honor to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, with the exception of the State Capitol, the War Memorial Building was the first building constructed by the State of Tennessee for the specific purpose of housing offices of state government; and

WHEREAS, the War Memorial Building, which is located between 6th and 7th Avenues and bordered by Charlotte Avenue (formerly Cedar Street) and Union Street in downtown Nashville, directly across from the State Capitol, sits on real property, in part, which was deeded to the State of Tennessee by the old City of Nashville for the purpose of building a fitting memorial to the World War I veterans of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, over the years, this patriotic concept has been expanded, so that today U.S. Armed forces personnel who served in the War Between the States, World War I, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and other soldiers who courageously sacrificed their lives in the line of duty are honored and memorialized throughout the War Memorial Building and Legislative Plaza complex; and

WHEREAS, additionally, a memorial to the valiant men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation during World War II is scheduled to be erected in the very near future; and

WHEREAS, in the middle of the atrium of the War Memorial Building stands a monumental statue entitled "Victory" by Nashville sculptors Belle Kinney, Scholz and Leopold Scholz; and

WHEREAS, after having been used for various purposes of state government in the course of its illustrious, seventy-year history, the War Memorial Building today houses offices for legislators, legislative staff members, various veterans organizations and the Tennessee Historical Society, in addition to being the home of the War Memorial Auditorium and the Tennessee Military State Museum; and

WHEREAS, originally, the War Memorial complex included the verdant confines of Victory Park, which extended parallel to the War Memorial Building on the east side and was bounded by Charlotte Avenue (formerly Cedar Street), Union Street, Capitol Boulevard and 6th Avenue North; and

WHEREAS, Victory Park was bisected by Victory Boulevard (now Deaderick Street), and both sections were surrounded by a concrete fence and contained hedge-lined walks and seats, while the south section contained a large fountain; and

WHEREAS, a small park at the south end of the War Memorial Building was especially designed to provide a setting for "a monument to commemorate the heroic devotion and self-sacrifice of the Women of Tennessee during the War Between the States"; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, the General Assembly appropriated funds for the construction of a multi-million dollar project called the Legislative Plaza, to be built at grade level directly below the War Memorial Building; this impressive structure was completed in 1975; and

WHEREAS, today, nearly twenty years after its original construction, the Legislative Plaza consists of a three-level development of the entire former Victory Park area fronting the War Memorial Building and State Capitol, with one story housing legislative offices, committee hearing rooms and other space at grade-level and two stories of parking and print shop facilities below grade level; and

WHEREAS, the roof of this development, which is also commonly referred to as the Legislative Plaza, effectively serves as a courtyard for the War Memorial Building and houses a landscaped plaza with trees, pools, fountains and benches; and

WHEREAS, in order to appropriately honor the memories of those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to preserve the precious freedoms of democracy and to ensure the freedom and prosperity of future generations, it is only fitting that this General Assembly should take action to redesignate the Legislative Plaza complex as the "War Memorial Plaza," thereby fulfilling the intended use of such property when the War Memorial Building was dedicated in 1925; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Plaza complex is hereby redesignated the "War Memorial Plaza" to fulfill the patriotic and historical purposes enumerated in the preamble of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of General Services, in cooperation with the Legislative Building Facilities Manager, is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating the Legislative Plaza complex as the "War Memorial Plaza".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of General Services and to the Legislative Building Facilities Manager.

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